

I support media diversity

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. I oppose any changes that lead to fewer owners of media, especially ownership in a community of all media and news outlets by one owner or monopoly. Independence in the media is needed to promote diversity of opinion; our founding fathers would be appalled by the relatively few owners of media that exist at the present time. We need to have less concentration of media in the hands of monopolies than exist at present. We should have at least 50 owners of media in this country. Media diversity promotes competition and different points of view which is important in a democracy. Changes in the direction of increased monopoly of the media would lead to fewer foreign news bureaus at a time in our history when news from abroad is important. Localism also would not be served by further concentrating media ownership having fewer owners and keeps the reporters in different medias. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. We also need more investigative reporters which even the present situation of monopoly ownership has curtailed. This is vital for our democracy.

The media has a watchdog role the importance of which has been heightened by corporate wrongdoing brought to light in the past year. This watchdog role will be curtailed if fewer owners of the media exist.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

It is vital that the commission take the time to review the pros and cons of making any changes in the direction leading to fewer ownership of the media. The American people need to have a meaningful voice in this process. I strongly urge the FCC to hold additional hearings in different parts of the country so that the public has a chance to voice their opinions on the issues the FCC is raising. I feel this is vital for our democracy

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you for your attention,
Sincerely yours,

Gretel Munroe

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